(c) Question does not arise.

Lightning strike by ATCOs

*537. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:
SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether last month there was a lightning strike by ATCOs;

(b) if so, the details of circumstances leading thereto;

(c) the details of losses caused thereby; and

(d) steps taken/contemplated to check recurrence of such situation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The strike was resorted to as a result of the suspension of an officer belonging to Air Traffic Control who was considered responsible for an airmiss incident.

(c) Airports Authority of India — Rs. 3.67 crores;
Indian Airlines — 15.70 crores;
Air India — Rs. 3.02 crores.

(d) A contingency plan has been formulated to meet such eventualities in future. The plan includes close coordination between civil and military Air Traffic Controllers. There is also a programme to familiarise the Air Taffic Controllers of the Indian Air Force and Navy with the Civil air traffic procedures, so that the air traffic services could be carried out with the help of the defence personnel whenever necessary.

Leprosy Cases in Madhya Pradesh

*538. SHRI LAKKHI RAM AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of leprosy cases in each State as on date; and

(b) the number of new cases detected in Madhya Pradesh recently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) A statement indicating the number of leprosy cases in each State/UT is laid on the table of the House (*see below*)

(b) New cases detected in 1996-97 till February, 1997 in the State of Madhya Pradesh are 33357.

Statement

Number of Leprosy cases on Record

S. No.	State/UT	Cases on record	Reports received upto the month
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	44005	2/97
2	Arunachal Pradesh	561	2/97
3	Assam	8080	2/97
4	Bihar	108715	2/97
5	Goa	361	3/97
6	Gujarat	15795	3/97
7	Haryana	555	3/97
8	Himachal Pradesh	1860	2/97
9	Jammu & Kashmir	1842	1/97
10	Karnataka	17250	3/97

1	2	3	4
11	Kerala	7422	2/97
12	Madhya Pradesh	57779	2/97
13	Maharashtra	36439	3/97
14	Manipur	668	3/97
15	Meghalaya	1150	9/96
16	Mizoram	98	8/97
17	Nagaland	1640	5/97
18	Orissa	44984	1/97
19	Punjab	1493	3/97
20	Rajasthan	10315	3/97
21	Sikkim	107	2/97
22	Tamil Nadu	46115	1/97
23	Tripura	682	3/97
24	Uttar Pradesh	76967	3/97
25	West Bengal	61185	12/97
26	A & N Islands	151	3/97
27	Chandigarh	479	3/97
28	D & N Haveli	264	3/97
29	Daman & Diu	197	6/97
30	Delhi	9802	2/97
31	Lakshadweep	34	3/97
32	Pondicherry	398	3/97
	Total	557393	

Trade Deficit

*539. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is sharp increase in the country's trade deficit;

(b) if so, the percentage of rise in the trade deficit since January, 1997;

(c) the major causes for the phenominal rise in the trade deficit; and

(d) the manner in which Government propose to narrow down the trade deficit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) As per the DGCI&S data, trade deficit in 1996-97 (Provisional) is placed at around US $ 5442 million which is higher than the deficit of US $ 4539 million in the previous year.

(b) As per DGCI&S data (Provisional), trade deficit during April-January 1996-97 was US $ 4289 million which has since gone upto US $ 5442 million in April-March 1996-97, a rise of 26.9%.

(c) Trade deficit is the excess of imports over exports. While imports are related to the needs of the economy, exports depend *inter alia* on various factors such as international market conditions, tariffs and non-tariff barriers, domestic infrastructure, cost of export credit, policy framework etc.

(b) The key of reducing trade deficit lies in accelerated export growth. Export promotion measures are continuously being taken by the Government through policy and promotional schemes. These include simplification of Export Import Policy procedures for providing an export friendly environment, involvement of